AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims includes a complete listing of both allowed claims and amended claims, and will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1) (Currently amended) A system for selecting a foreground region of an image, given a set of pixels defining the boundary of the foreground region of the image, comprising:

a component to determine a foreground value (F) and an opacity value (α) for each pixel on the set wherein α is determined *via* a subpixel edge-offset to facilitate a separation of the foreground region from background portions of the image and to combine the foreground region with background portions from a new image, the component determines an edge orientation *via* a gradient applied to the image to produce a resultant gradient vector that is perpendicular to the edge orientation, further the component determines gradient magnitudes along the resultant gradient vector in order to determine the subpixel edge offset.

2) (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the foreground value (F) and opacity value (α) are employed to mix the foreground region of the image with a subsequent image background region.

3) (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein Intelligent Scissors are employed to define the foreground region of the image.

4) (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the background portions and foreground regions of the image are mixed within pixels along the foreground region according to the equation $\mathbf{I} = \alpha\mathbf{F} + (1-\alpha)\mathbf{B}$.

5) (Original) The system of claim 4, wherein the component selects colors for each pixel on the set for the background portions or the foreground regions of the image according to borrowing a color value from a neighboring pixel location.

6) (Original) The system of claim 4, wherein the component selects colors for each pixel on the set for the background portions or the foreground regions of the image according to an average of several nearby pixels.

7) (Original) The system of claim 4, wherein the component selects colors for each pixel on the set for the background portions or the foreground regions of the image according to a stochastically selected, weighted average of nearby pixels.

8) (Original) The system of claim 4, wherein the component selects colors for each pixel on the set for the background portions or the foreground regions of the image according to a pixel generated by a texture reconstruction process applied to nearby pixels.

9) (Original) The system of claim 4, wherein the component selects colors for each pixel on the set for the background portions or the foreground regions of the image according to a mixture of an intensity value and the pixel value generated by at least one of an average of several nearby pixels, a stochastically selected, weighted average of nearby pixels, and a pixel generated by a texture reconstruction process applied to nearby pixels.

10) (Cancelled)

11) (Cancelled)

12) (Currently amended) The system of claim 1 ~~11~~, wherein the component employs at least one of bilinear and bi-cubic interpolation in order to determine the gradient magnitudes.

13) (Currently amended) The system of claim 1 ~~11~~, wherein the component employs anisotropic smoothing in order to determine the gradient magnitudes.

14) (Currently amended) The system of claim 1 ~~11~~, wherein the component employs Gaussian smoothing to reduce pixel-wide noise associated with the image.

15) (Currently amended) The system of claim 1 ~~11~~, wherein the component fits a curve to the gradient magnitudes in order to determine the subpixel edge offset.

16) (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the component integrates over the area defined by the subpixel edge offset and at least one side of the pixel in order to determine the opacity value (α).

17) (Currently amended) A method for integrating extracted images, comprising:

selecting a set of contour pixels defining a foreground region of an image;

determining a subpixel edge offset from the center of each contour pixel; ~~and~~

determining an area of a portion of each contour pixel utilizing the subpixel edge offset to determine an opacity value (α) for each contour pixel;

using a component to determine an edge orientation *via* a gradient applied to the image to produce a resultant gradient vector that is perpendicular to the edge orientation; wherein the component also determines gradient magnitudes along the resultant gradient vector in order to determine the subpixel edge offset.

18) (Original) The method of claim 17 further comprising, utilizing the opacity value (α) to smoothly mix the foreground region of the image with a subsequent background region associated with another image.

19) (Cancelled)

20) (Cancelled)

21) (Currently amended) The method of claim 17 ~~20~~, further comprising, applying anisotropic smoothing in order to determine the gradient magnitudes.

22) (Original) The method of claim 21, further comprising, applying Gaussian smoothing to reduce pixel-wide noise associated with the image.

23) (Currently amended) The method of claim 17 ~~20~~, further comprising, fitting a curve to the gradient magnitudes in order to determine the subpixel edge offset.

24) (Original) The method of claim 23, further comprising, integrating over the area defined by the subpixel edge offset and at least one side of the pixel in order to determine the opacity value (α).

25) (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 17.

26) (Cancelled)

27) (Cancelled)

28) (Currently amended) A signal facilitating integration of extracted images, comprising:

a signal for communicating information associated with an image;

a first component for selecting a set of contour pixels defining a foreground region of the image *via* the signal, wherein the component determines a subpixel edge offset from the center of each contour pixel, and determines an area of a portion of each contour pixel utilizing the subpixel edge offset to determine an opacity value (α) for each contour pixel, the component further determines an edge orientation *via* a gradient applied to the image to produce a resultant gradient vector perpendicular to the edge orientation, and determines gradient magnitudes along the resultant gradient vector in order to determine the subpixel offset; and

a second component utilizing the opacity value (α) *via* the signal to smoothly mix the foreground region of the image with a subsequent background region associated with another image.

29) (Original) The signal of claim 28, wherein the signal is communicated over at least one of a network system and a wireless system.